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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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VOLUME 14, NUMBER 4 WINTER 1964

W. Harley Webster, Editor

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COVER: Prairie grass in the winter snows.
Photo by Miss Marion Smith, Long Island, New York

The Editor solicits the donation of news items, notes and photographs dealing with various aspects of The Nature Conservancy's work and conservation. If possible, all written material should be typewritten, double spaced and on one side of the paper only. Photographs and negatives should be properly labeled. When possible, negatives should accompany photographs. The Nature Conservancy will make every effort to return material submitted. However, it assumes no financial responsibility for its safe return. In connection with feature articles, please query the Editor first, so that he can advise you concerning the magazine's requirements.

RACHEL CARSON

by George L. Collins
Vice President of The Nature Conservancy

No conservationist of whom I have knowledge was more controversial in life, or more posthumously significant, than Rachel Carson. For years she thought and wrote magnificently, and relatively noncontroversially.

She was born at just the time, however, and she lived in just the way fate decreed in putting her finally and inevitably toward the end of her life career on a collision course with those more noxious forces of man she understood so well and revealed so eloquently. They are forces that ravage the very landscapes and skyscapes man must preserve if he is to survive and use his environment harmoniously with other creatures as she believed possible and essential.

Now she is here around us, a presence, an instrument of conservation morality more practically meaningful and more spirtually revered than ever.

We of The Nature Conservancy have uncommon reason to meditate on the importance of Rachel Carson. Every eminent philosopher, every great humanitarian, is important to us, of course. But we live particularly in the light of distinguished conservationists, living and dead, to whose hall of fame she does indeed belong.

There is another very special purpose that holds us close to Rachel Carson, and that is her Will. It is a unique document in the way in which it relies upon two of the nation's top conservation organizations — the Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy—to utilize funds from her estate through a trust that will go to them eventually, not right away, but in a few years.

Miss Carson was wise in the way she foresaw a possible growth of benefit through her action in providing such a trust. Her purpose was to show by example, especially as an incentive to others, how with her own estate, gained from such writings as "The Sea Around Us," "Under the Sea Wind," "The Edge of the Sea," and the very notable "Silent Spring," she carefully planned to meet family and other primary needs and also give material support in due course to conservation.

The residuary estate will most significantly include income and royalties from the literary works already published and those Miss Carson's literary trustee may desire to have published in future. Since the conservation trust will not become active for some years during which family obligations will be met, the Conservancy's decision is to collect other funds from any and all who care to contribute as a collateral means of getting special land acquisition going in Rachel Carson's name.

There has been no question of a fitting project for Miss Carson within The Nature Conservancy's program. She worked along the New England shore for years; and with some of the proceeds from "The Sea Around Us" she acquired a summer cottage on the Maine coast.

We of The Nature Conservancy have established the Rachel Carson Seacoast Preservation Committee. That was accomplished by the Board of Governors during the meeting of May 23, 1964, about a month after her death. Dr. Boardman was authorized by the Board to undertake a special drive as soon as feasible for funds with which to acquire land in Miss Carson's name.

There are a number of shore and island properties of exceptional quality that could be acquired if funds for the purpose were available. We cannot await activation of the trust fund before starting acquisition as the lands are so apt to be completely out of reach by that time.

So, friends of Rachel Carson—the scientists and naturalists, professional and amateur, and all of those others who knew her, or read her books, or who found hope for the world in the meaning of her life, are urged to think about the work of the committee and the fund and give them support. Remember, we would rather have a dollar from each of 5,000 members or friends than $5,000 from one member.

THE RACHEL CARSON SEACOAST FUND

January 4, 1965, marks the beginning of a formal effort to establish the Rachel Carson Seacoast Fund. Its purpose will be to provide financial reserves for the preservation of such New England Coastal lands as may be acquired by The Nature Conservancy as a means of fully carrying out the hopes of the late Rachel Carson as expressed in her will. The Conservancy invites the host of people who admired Dr. Carson as a person and who would pay tribute to her for her contribution to mankind through preserving something of the land that was an inspiration to her and served as a basis of some of her finest writings. Because of the high cost of coastal areas if purchased at market prices, an endeavor will be made to find areas that may be contributed or purchased at nominal cost. It is thought that the major part of monetary gifts might become a special fund under the "Working Dollars" of the Conservancy, such amount to be used as security in land purchase by conservation bodies and the earnings devoted to custodial care of the Carson Seacoast Lands. All such gifts should be sent to The Nature Conservancy designated as the "Rachel Carson Fund", and will be placed in this reserve.

In her will Rachel Carson expressed a desire to further the preservation in their natural state of islands and coastal areas of New England, especially along the coast of Maine, but not exclusively so. In accordance with the wishes expressed in Miss Carson's will, the Board of Governors of The Nature Conservancy authorized the establishment of a RACHEL CARSON SEACOAST FUND, and the Executive Director was authorized to initiate a drive to create this fund, with the purpose of providing resources for the preservation of such New England coastal lands as may be acquired by The Nature Conservancy.

It will be some years before funds are actually available from Rachel Carson's estate; however, under the provisions of the Conservancy's RACHEL CARSON SEACOAST FUND, lands may be given to the Conservancy for seacoast preservation, but funds for long term custodianship are urgently needed now. A special endowment fund is being founded to provide patrol and protection of lands involved, and a sample cost estimate shows that a $1,000.00 endowment will provide for protection of only one-half mile of coastline. It can, therefore, be seen that adequate funds must be raised if we are to keep faith with Rachel Carson.

An Advisory Committee is being set up for guidance of the project, and a number of well known conservationists and other interested individuals have been asked to serve on the committee.

—Walter S. Boardman

Rachel Carson

OUR COASTAL MARSHES: ARE THEY TO BECOME A VANISHING RESOURCE?

by Dr. Richard H. Goodwin
President of The Nature Conservancy

Salt marshes and meadows are truly delightful features of our seacoasts. In colonial times these wetlands were mowed for salt hay by the early settlers. Today they fringe the play-ground of those who go down to the sea to mess around in boats. Behind the beach, wind ripples the tall grasses gleaming in the slanting rays of the afternoon sun. The dory, tethered in the meandering creek, lies stranded by the ebbing tide, while flocks of snipe and peeps skitter along the flats probing the mud for food. Flocks of ducks drop into the bay to feed at dawn. Clams, scallops, crabs, eels, flounder and many other palatable attractions bring young and old to this habitat.

The tidal marshes occupy only a minute fraction of the continental United States. Most of the West Coast and portions of the East are formed of steep rocky shores or eroding headlands. The marshes are found in the estuaries and the bays sheltered by barrier beaches and islands, especially southward along the gently sloping Atlantic Coastal plain.

Have you ever taken a low altitude flight along the coast within the limits of the Megalopolis (i.e. between Portland, Maine, and Norfolk, Virginia)? It can be an alarming experience if one understands the biological significance of the scene. The cancer of black muck, light sandy fill, grey smoking dumps and shimmering sheets of tar are spreading across the lush green meadows. Channels and basins are carved out of the marshes for marinas. Factories, housing developments, sewage disposal works, oil depots, utility plants and highways encroach on this low ground. Murky effluent issues from the streams and outfall sewers, and bay after bay is filled with fantastic numbers of pleasure craft. This attack on the tidal marsh is twofold — direct physical encroachment, due in large part to hydraulic dredging and filling operations, and indirect damage through pollution of the water.

In these days of an exploding population we should, as a nation, be giving thought to the food resources of the future. It is often glibly said that when the going gets rough we turn to the vast resources of the sea. It is time the public became enlightened with respect to the role of the salt marsh in marine productivity, lest in a few more careless years we destroy an important potential of the sea. Productivity may be measured by the amount of plant growth supported by a given surface of the planet, as plants provide the base of the food chain that nourishes animals and man. Deserts and the vast open oceans are the least productive, only producing a little over one pound per acre per day. Comparable figures for coastal waters, shallow lakes, grasslands and ordinary croplands range between 6 and 60 pounds per acre per day, while estuaries, tidal marshes and unusually fertile lands under intensive cultivation produce between 60 and 242 pounds per acre per day. Thus, these soggy coastal wetlands, twice daily irrigated by the nutrients of the sea, produce as much new organic matter, with no expenditure of human effort, as our richest, most intensively worked farms.

One may appropriately ask the significance of these statistics for human nutrition when we eat none of this plant material ourselves and now rarely even bother to harvest the salt hay. The answer lies in the production of high protein food sources which may be harvested in the estuaries and off-shore waters. It was no accident that relatively high concentrations of aborigenes in pre-colonial times were found along the seacoast. The decaying organic material that is daily flushed from the salt marsh by the ebbing tide is the base of a complex food chain in the little streams that thread it and then

in the adjacent bays. Of great importance are the spawning and nursing grounds of the tom cod, flounder, menhadden and other species that through millions of years have developed a life cycle dependent upon the shallow, protected and fertile habitat of the estuary. Some of these fish later go to sea and provide food for tuna, bass and swordfish. The destruction of these marshes will certainly have a most unfavorable impact upon the productivity of the off-shore waters, to say nothing of shellfish which are supported by the estuarine habitat.

Many species of migratory water-fowl are, of course, completely dependent upon the marshes and estuaries for feeding and resting grounds along the Atlantic flyway. The annual harvest of ducks can hardly be considered a significant source of human food at the present time, but these birds have an enormous importance to millions of sportsmen and bird watchers. As time goes on, the proportion of ornithologists and camera fans to hunters will grow, whether or not this recreational resource is preserved, but it is surely to be hoped that the base that supports this fauna and the enjoyment that it provides will not be destroyed.

There are other values to the coastal wetlands. In places they provide ideal protection to the shore from erosion and to the water table from contamination by salt water. In a somewhat negative way they serve the public far better as a marsh than as a development subject to periodic flooding by hurricane tides. It is time we learned that our whole society suffers from ill advised developments that disregard the natural laws that govern our environment.

Photo by Louis Darling, first President of Connecticut Conservationists, Inc.

"Once upon a time a youngster could pursue a quest on the Sherwood Island Marsh"

What should be the role of The Nature Conservancy in this problem of the preservation of the tidal marshes? The major concern of the Conservancy has been with the preservation of samples of all types of habitats as living museums where tomorrow's generations can study the beauty and biological diversity that we have inherited from the past. Man has been so aggressive in his exploitation of the environment that little upland has been left in the undisturbed state. Almost all of the long-grass prairie has been turned by the plow, and the more accessible forests harvested for timber or pulpwood or just cleared for agriculture. In the past ten years The Nature Conservancy has been actively engaged in acquiring relatively undisturbed fragments of these major vegetation types, and also other less common habitats such as bogs, cypress swamps, lake shores, ravines and streams. This volunteer organization has so far accomplished little in the preservation of the coastal marshes. Some of the larger ones have been acquired by the Federal Government as National Wildlife Refuges, or by States as hunting areas. Many of these are under management for wildfowl and are hence subjected to various types of disturbance. The smaller areas, are desperately in need of attention today. Most of these are too small to be useful as national refuges or as hunting areas, but they are in the aggregate important to our fisheries, to our wildfowl and to us as recreational and as educational areas.

The Nature Conservancy is prepared to accept title to coastal wetlands as natural areas and preserves and should, where feasible, actively seek to acquire property by gift or purchase. We need action or project committees all along the Atlantic seaboard to promote this work.

The Corrine Gallup Marsh, located on the upper Mystic River estuary in southeastern Connecticut, is an example of an area preserved through a conservation easement. Here the Conservancy has been given development rights to a small, unditched salt marsh. The family of the donor still has title to the property, but they and their heirs and assigns no longer have the right to use it for other than its

Nature Conservancy members crossing Mamacoke Island Marsh, New London, Conn., 24 Aug. 1963

conservation values. The Conservancy undertook to defend this marsh from encroachment by a marina. Several thousand dollars were raised locally to finance the various legal actions taken in its behalf, and although a case against the State Water Resources Commission was lost, both State Officials and the public were alerted to the importance of the conservation issues involved. A tragic footnote to this case is the financial failure of the marina which should never have been constructed at this location in the first place.

The Mamacoke Natural Area of the Connecticut Arboretum includes another small salt marsh that has permanent legal protection through a reverter restriction. Acquired by purchase with contributions from many public-spirited citizens and organizations, this land was given to Connecticut College with the stipulation that it should forever remain in its natural state. In case of breach of trust, title to the property will revert either to the Connecticut Forest and Park Association or to The Nature Conservancy.

Information concerning such legal devices may be obtained from the national office of The Nature Conservancy.

Other types of action should be taken by people in our Atlantic states. In Massachusetts the Department of Conservation has been given the legal authority to prevent dredging and filling of marshes which it feels will be damaging to wildlife and conservation values. The legislation giving the state government this power should be studied carefully by conservationists in other states. Zoning tidal marshes against real estate development is another type of action that should be considered, especially in areas vulnerable to periodic flooding by hurricane tides, and citizens must be alert to oppose encroachments on public lands. Marshes in state parks, for example, have been destroyed for reasons of financial or political expediency, a notable example being the marsh in Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, Connecticut.

Lastly, the growing concern on the part of government and citizen groups for the abatement of pollution must be brought into focus and translated into effective action. In many instances, laws have been passed and governmental agencies have been given the power to police them, and yet vested interests still flout authority for selfish gain.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Those interested in source materials on the preservation of salt marshes may wish to obtain copies of Connecticut Arboretum Bulletin No. 12 "Connecticut's Coastal Marshes: A Vanishing Resource". Price $0.40 postpaid Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut.

RESEARCH RESERVES FOR THE UNIVERSITIES OF AMERICA

by Richard H. Pough
Member of the Board of Governors of The Nature Conservancy

Here and there in every state, one can still find an occasional tract of land occupied by most or all of the plants and animals that lived on it when the first white settler arrived. The members of such wild communities having lived together for thousands of years have achieved a stable relationship with each other and all have been adapted by evolutionary development to the local climate and soil and to each other's presence.

Living organisms exist in nature as members of one or more of these complex communities, and the role the organism plays in the community is what gives meaning to its physical form, its habits and its attributes. Only within the frame of reference provided by the biotic community of which it is a functional unit can it be fully understood.

These small remnants of once widespread communities are not only a continuing source of organisms that mankind will learn how to put to use as his knowledge of the living world grows, but they are the real laboratories of the biological sciences. Without their continuing availability as check areas where research results can be evaluated and organisms studied under the conditions that molded them to their present form, the vitality of both the teaching and research programs of America's educational institutions will be greatly impaired.

Over the past few years, many millions of dollars have been spent for buildings to house science departments while virtually nothing has been spent to acquire the field laboratories on which they will become increasingly dependent as civilization continues to alter the natural character of most of the landscape.

In a very real sense, we have been putting the cart before the horse. Laboratory buildings can always be built, but research reserves cannot always be acquired. In fact, the period during which they can still be acquired is short and time is rapidly running out. Looked at objectively, it is hard to see why the program for their purchase has lagged. Unlike buildings, they never wear out or depreciate. The funds invested in them go into an indestructible asset - **land** - that will continually grow more valuable. Most important of all, without them biological studies and teaching programs will in the future be increasingly divorced from the reality that contact with organisms in a state of nature provides.

The local chapters of the The Nature Conservancy are putting on drives to obtain the areas that their state's teaching and research institutions must continue to have available, areas that every scientific institution in the country will be free to use, and that fifty or a hundred years from now will be unique and valuable beyond price.

Years from now, when all the money in the world couldn't buy such areas, those who make use of these islands of undisturbed nature are likely to say of those who support this program, "what vision they had".

CONSERVANCY STAFF CHANGES

Paul Bruce Dowling, Assistant Director for Natural Areas for many years, has left The Nature Conservancy and is now Vice President of The Natural Areas Council. This is a step forward for Bruce, and our congratulations and best wishes go with him.

All communications concerning Conservancy business, formerly sent to Mr. Dowling, should be sent to Mr. Herbert S. Hiller, who is now Acting Assistant Director for Natural Areas. Mr. Hiller combines a long experience as an engineer with volunteer work in the field of Conservation. He has been on the Board of Managers of the Appalachian Trail conference and Treasurer of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. He served five years with the Woodland Trail Walkers and three years as President of the Union County, New Jersey Hiking Club.

TAM DEERING

Special Citation by the American Recreation Society,
Miami Beach, Florida, October 6, 1964.

Tam Deering, who was responsible for the preservation of Wildflower Acres, a project of The Nature Conservancy in Snohomish County, Washington, was presented with a special citation by the American Recreation Society in October, and we are taking the liberty of quoting the entire citation to honor this man who has done so much for the cause of conservation.

"He was born in Snohomish, Washington, and thereby admitted to the Union eleven months ahead of his own native State. His aesthetic inclinations and good judgment became clear as a young man when he married a vivacious and intelligent lady who became a well known writer, poet, teacher and moderator of public discussions in her own right. In 1962 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with their two daughters, their families, and many friends at their wilderness home, Wildflower Acres, on land which our nominee cleared with his own hands, and which he has already given to future generations as the first Nature Conservancy area in the State of Washington.

"He received his Bachelor Degree in Law from the University of Washington in 1907. But being the perpetual student, he continued with graduate study at Harvard and Boston University in the years, 1914 to 1917. Ever since then he has been studying the world of nature, including his favorite subject—MAN. As an undergraduate, he was president of his class and president of the Fir Tree Honor Society. In fact, if trees could vote, he'd have been in the White House a long time ago. This man's entire personal, scholastic and professional life reflect his deep and continuing love for the land and his fellow man.

"In advance of the Roaring Twenties he was the Executive Secretary of the School of Expression in Boston and Head Worker at the Jamaica Plains Neighborhood House. He also found time to be Chairman of the Social Committee for the Boston Social Union and Chairman of the Massachusetts Wage Board.

"Long before our national leaders were giving much thought to preserving our vanishing shoreline, he was doing it as Executive Secretary of the State County Parks and Beaches Association in San Diego. Prior to that he served as Executive Secretary of Community Services, Inc., in Seattle and three other locations, including California's oldest city on San Diego Bay. Oldtimers will remember that Community Services were offshoots of the National Recreation Association's World War I effort. He made real advances as Superintendent of Public Recreation and Director of Physical Education under the Board of Playground Commissioners and Board of Education in San Diego.

"This easy-going, philosophical giant came into national prominence when the reform government of Cincinnati under Clarence Dykstra, then city manager, and later president of the University of Wisconsin and UCLA, employed him as his Superintendent of Public Recreation. There, between 1932 and 1946 our nominee built a "model" public recreation system with just a pocketful of tax money, the WPA and lots of imagination! It was also to be in this metropolis on the Ohio River, which Longfellow in the middle 1800's called the Queen City of the West, that our man was to make perhaps the greatest stand which has ever been made in the recreation profession against the spoils system. His battle against attempts to declassify his Civil Service position was glorious and victorious. But the struggle erased his life savings which he did not think too high a price to pay. The principle of recognizing the recreator as a professional and not a politician was preserved.

"This amiable fellow who will give up everything but his principles, and who has always been generous with his energy and his possessions, was called upon by the United States Army and the State Department to help establish youth recreation centers in Austria. Later General MacArthur invited him to help develop

recreation programs in Japan and Korea. For three years he served as consultant to the Division of Water Resources for the State of California and for fifteen years now he has served as a public recreation and conservation consultant in many United States cities.

"Over the years, professional publications such as Parks and Recreation, City Planning, Recreation Magazine, Architectural Magazine, Survey and American City carried many of his articles. In 1938 he headed up NRA's Research Task Force on Standards of Training, many of which remain as the underpinning for today's achievements.

"He has long been as active member of the National Recreation Association, American Recreation Society, Cascades

Photo by Don G. Kelley

IVAH AND TAM DEERING, founders and donors of Wildflower Acres, TNC Project at Marysville, Washington, first project of the Washington State Chapter.

Conservation Council, The Nature Conservancy, and the American Institute of Park Executives.

"He may well be the only man in the history of the American Recreation Society who was endorsed for this citation by a dozen of the Society's past presidents.

"In conclusion, let it be said, however, that this gentle man's professional contributions and personal dedication to the recreation movement over a period of five decades pale in comparison with what he is as a human being.

"If there ever has been an Albert Schweitzer of the recreation movement, it is our Nominee.

"Therefore, the American Recreation Society is both proud and privileged to award its highest Citation to Mr. Tam Deering."

Report On The Burnham Brook Preserve Of The Nature Conservancy

The first meeting of the Burnham Brook Preserve Committee was held at the Dolbia Hill Farm on April 4, 1964, with all members present. Plans were laid for further growth of the Preserve, for the preparation of a brochure on the project, and for scientific studies.

In July 1963, a water-gauging weir was installed on the brook near the eastern boundary of the property, and periodic measurements of stream flow and water temperatures have been taken during the past two summers. At no time has the flow completely stopped during these two dry seasons, although in 1963 it dropped to below twenty gallons per minute for several weeks with a minimum flow at one measurement of one gallon per minute. The maximum temperature measurement of water flowing at the weir was 22° C.

On July 28, 1964, the State Board of Fisheries and Game made a census of the fish along a 1,000-foot stretch of the brook, using an electric net. Fifty-four brook trout and 29 eels were counted.

A flora of vascular plants found on the Preserve is being prepared, and voucher specimens are being collected. At present this list includes 25 species of vascular cryptogams, 4 species of conifers, and 165 species of flowering plants (28 trees, 27 shrubs, and 110 herbs). A preliminary cover type analysis is being prepared by Dr. William A. Niering and Dr. Frank E. Egler.

Records are being kept of the birds and mammals observed at the Dolbia Hill Farm at the Preserve. A total of 125 species of birds have been seen (103 in 1964 alone) and 16 species of mammals.

The Burnham Brook Preserve Committee

Dr. Stephen Collins
Mr. Louis Darling
Mrs. Chauncey H. Hand
Mr. Freeborn Jewett
Dr. Raymond Kienholz
Mr. Harry McKanisk
Dr. William A. Niering
Dr. Richard H. Goodwin, Chairman

Two More Sites Recommended For The National Registry Of Natural History Landmarks

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has announced that two more sites have been found eligible for the National Registry of Natural History Landmarks, following recommendations by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments on October 14th.

Cranesville Swamp Nature Sanctuary, West Virginia-Maryland, and Mentor Marsh in Ohio have now been added to the first seven sites designated as Natural History Landmarks. Sites eligible for the Registry — which is being compiled by the National Park Service — must have a high degree of scientific or educational value, must contain geologic or ecologic values, or both, of exceptional quality and significance in illustrating the natural history of the United States.

The Cranesville Swamp, owned by The Nature Conservancy and administered, under deed of lease, by West Virginia University, is maintained in as near natural condition as possible and used for research and teaching. The Swamp contains 251 acres in Preston County, West Virginia, about nine miles north of Terra Alta, and 8 acres in Garrett County, Maryland.

The Swamp is a remnant of boreal forest which has persisted since the Ice Age. It occupies a natural bowl in which the combination of 2500-foot elevation and closed configuration results in a frost pocket which is poorly drained. The cool, moist conditions are conducive to continuation of a plant and animal community characteristic of more northerly latitudes.

Mentor Marsh, 28 miles northeast of Cleveland, Ohio, is owned by The Nature Conservancy, which preserves a representative portion in its natural state and makes it available to students and the public for educational, scientific and recreational purposes.

Among the distinct plant communities of Mentor Marsh are aquatic plants, marsh vegetation, upland forest, and swamp and bottomland forest in which grow various species of trees, many of remarkable size. It is the site of both migration stopovers and year-round habitats for some species of birds and mammals whose available living space is shrinking.

The Department of the Interior expects to announce additional Natural History Landmarks as studies concerning their eligibility are concluded.

Director's Message

The Membership Secretary joins in a message of thanks to the 2,473 members who have paid their 1965 dues in advance. This excellent response not only starts off the Annual Membership drive on a positive note, but also means a saving of time, material and postage involved in dues reminders.

It continues to be true that every dollar contributed through memberships and gifts to "current expenses" has resulted in five dollars worth of land preserved for scientific, educational and aesthetic purposes. In addition to the satisfaction of knowing that contributions are paying "five to one" there is also the moral support which every membership provides. The Conservancy is the only nationwide organization whose primary objective is land preservation through acquisition. Whereas lands acquired under the public domain are subject to changes in administrative policy, those areas acquired by The Nature Conservancy are certain to be maintained for the purpose intended. Contributors have the assurance of a sound investment in the preservation of America's natural heritage for the foreseeable future.

Every member can help by enlisting at least one other person whose interests are in keeping with the objectives of The Nature Conservancy.

Membership forms and literature will be gladly sent to all persons suggested by readers of The Nature Conservancy News. It is hoped that many will start the year off by thus enlisting additional supporters.

16th ANNUAL MEETING
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
AT
BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
HUMBOLDT PARK
BUFFALO, N. Y.
SEPTEMBER 10-11-12, 1965

Ecological Studies Leaflets Resume Publication

To encourage the development of a research program on as many of the natural areas preserved or assisted by The Nature Conservancy as possible, the Ecological Studies Committee of the Board of Governors is reviving the Ecological Studies Leaflets, originally started in 1960. The titles of the principal articles in the first two numbers, issued then, were "Amateur Studies on Natural Areas" and "A Plant Census of a Natural Area". Three more numbers are ready for publication, with titles as follows:

No. 3 "Forest Quality Surveys by the Amateur".

No. 4 "How to Investigate the History of a Natural Area".

No. 5 "Phenological and Autecological Studies of Plant Species in Natural Areas", and "Quiet Observation".

Others will come as material is sent in for publication. Articles or short notes recording observations made in any area of interest to the Conservancy, especially those preserved by the organization, and articles describing methods or equipment useful for research on these areas are welcome. The Conservancy is fortunate in enlisting Mrs. Ethel Durham as editor of the Leaflets, and manuscripts and correspondence on editorial matters should be addressed to her, Rt. 1, Box 164, Great Falls, Va. She will decide whether to accept an article or return it to the author with suggestions for revision in consultation with the chairman of the Ecological Studies Committee.

Distribution of the Leaflets will be to a special mailing list consisting of certain selected ecologists and ecological institutions and all Nature Conservancy members who want to receive them. This must be indicated by filling in the blank below and returning it to the editor or to the national office of The Nature Conservancy, or by writing a letter to this effect. A few copies of the first two numbers are still available and will be sent on request as long as they last. If there is sufficient demand for them they may be reprinted.

Request To Be Placed On Mailing List for Ecological Studies Leaflets

I would like to receive current and future numbers of the Ecological Studies Leaflets ____(also numbers 1 and 2 _____).

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____

Thompson Pond, New York

An entrance sign for Thompson Pond has been made, costing $41.60. It is 4 by 3 feet, consisting of five pine boards, 1-1/4 inches thick. The letters are 1-1/2 inch and 1 inch routed 1/4 inch deep. The letters were painted yellow and the boards soaked in penta chlora phenol preservative. The wording is as follows:

"A heritage from the past for nature study and scientific research.

Protected by man, but managed by nature.

Visitors are welcome....
to enjoy but not to disturb.

Do not enter with gun, dog, ax, trap or fire."

The Nature Conservancy
2039 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Custodian: Mrs. John Klink
Pine Plains, N. Y.

This may be of interest for other projects where entrance signs are needed.

DEDICATION ON THE DESERT

by Don Greame Kelley
(former Western Regional Director of The Nature Conservancy)

On the wintry 15th of November 1964, 150 members and friends of The Nature Conservancy, Southern California Chapter, age one to 80 years, met at the foot of the Chuckwalla Mountains near Desert Center, California, to dedicate a unique scientific monument as the Edmund C. Jaeger Nature Sanctuary.

A hundred-sixty acres of typical Lower Sonoran desert, comprising gently sloped outwash plain and steep, fantastically eroded granitic-metamorphic rock formations, this place is made special by the discovery, just 18 years ago, of a great "first" in natural science — the first recognition, that is, of an ancient fact of nature.

It was December 29, 1946. A professor of zoology in Riverside College, desert naturalist and author, Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger drove eastward on Highway 60 through the Colorado Desert with two of his students, Milton Montgomery and Jerry Schulte. Passing the Chuckwallas, half way between Indio near Salton Sea and Blythe on the Colorado River, they were attracted by a weird jumble of rock — an inviting place to explore. At the head of the wash, in a notch between two high buttes, Montgomery glanced down at what he thought was an ironwood root stump in a hole and almost flush with the granite wall, about 2.5 feet above ground. But Dr. Jaeger quickly recognized feathers in the rock-matching mottled gray pattern of the object as he reached down. Carefully, after waiting some time for it to stir, he lifted out of the fist-sized round hole an apparently lifeless small bird. It was a Nuttall's Poorwill, and it was not dead. It opened and then closed one eye, but gave no other sign of life. Ten days later it was there, in the same state. But after it had been handled for a time, the bird suddenly opened its wings and flew away, quite normally, out of reach.

The same Poorwill, Dr. Jaeger felt sure, was there in the niche, late in November the next year. Now reasonably certain this was a hibernating bird, Dr. Jaeger banded it, and made several tests

Photo by Don G. Kelley

Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger tells of finding Hibernating Poorwill in round hole in rocks. (At Dedication 15 Nov. 1964. Desert Center, California.)

on this and subsequent weekly visits until late February when the bird became active. All winter the Poorwill's heartbeat and breathing were at a standstill, temperature was at least 40 degrees (F.) lower than a Poorwill's normal, there was a progressive weight loss, and no droppings. The open eye did not react to a flashlight beam. Yet on the last visit the bird stretched its wings and flew away. For the next two winters the same bird was there, identified by the band.

In 1948 Dr. Jaeger published a field note in the Condor (vol. 50) in which he put the hibernation theory in question form after his second winter of observation. A year later, in an article in the same ornithological journal (vol. 51), he summarized his findings to that date as pointing very strongly to nothing less than a state of hibernation. Science has no earlier record of a bird hibernating, although scientific thinkers since Aristotle has speculated over the possibility. More popular accounts are Dr. Jaeger's story in The National Geographic Magazine, February 1953, and a chapter in his book Our Desert Neighbors (Stanford, 1950).

Ten years later the discovery site and its environs, except for an abandoned mine nearby, were still in an unspoiled natural state. Retired and well on in years though active as ever in his desert studies, Dr. Jaeger held the hope that somehow this particular piece of desert

Photo by Don G. Kelley

Signing the Deed. L to R: Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger, Horace M. Albright, Hall H. McClain (BLM), Tasker L. Edmiston, Beula Edmiston.

could be preserved as inspiration and working ground for new generations of students and desert naturalists. His wish found its perfect reflection in the aims of The Nature Conservancy. Our Southern California Chapter, effectively spearheaded in this effort by its treasurer and secretary, Mr. and Mrs. Tasker L. Edmiston of Los Angeles, took up the challenge. The land was under jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Land Management. Sympathetic to the conservation idea, the BLM officials in the Riverside office, Jens C. Jensen and Hall H. McClain readily cooperated in negotiations. The land could be had for fifteen dollars an acre, subject to its being kept open to the public with minimum facilities provided for camping and day use. Dr. Jaeger himself gave the bulk of the funds. The Chapter, with Beula Edmiston as project chairman, has undertaken to raise the balance, thus setting a fine example of cooperation between public and private organizations in a conservation and educational enterprise. The nucleus of a "Poorwill" fund has already been established by earmarked donations to The Nature Conservancy, the interest from which will, as the fund grows, provide for the maintenance.

On the Friday night and Saturday before the dedication, many Chapter members came to camp in the wash and prepare for Sunday's occasion. A parking area was marked off, necessary signs and latrines put up, and quantities of rusted cans, bottles, and other refuse of the old mining camp were gathered to haul away. Fifty people circled around the project's first camp fire Saturday night. Dr. Jaeger, students and teachers from several colleges, and Conservancy members told of explorations and experiences around the world, from this desert to Antarctica.

Hostess and program chairman for the dedication, Sunday morning, was Beula Edmiston, a 1964 winner of the Swetland award to The Nature Conservancy members for exceptional service to conservation. Speakers were Horace M. Albright, Chapter Chairman, and a one-time Director of the National Park Service; Lauder Hodges of The Nature Conservancy Board of Governors; William R. Supernaugh, Superintendent of Joshua Tree National Monument (which lies just the other side of the highway); Hall H. McClain, District Land Office Manager, BLM: Don Greame Kelley, representing The Nature Conservancy's Western Regional Director, Huey D. Johnson, who was unable to come from San Francisco; and finally, giving the principle address, Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger himself.

Introducing Dr. Jaeger, Chairman Albright said:

> "We are here today to honor the man who by his careful studies of this area discovered the unique and precious features that mark it as worthy of perpetual preservation for the benefit of all mankind. This man, the discoverer of this rare and valuable tract is Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger of Riverside. This is where he resides but he is at home anywhere in our western deserts from Death Valley to deep in old Mexico and east and west in Arizona and all Southern California.

"Dr. Jaeger has been an eminent explorer. He is still an explorer. As long as he can roam over the deserts and other wild parts of the Southwest, he will be an explorer, finding new works of Nature to study, discover their secrets and write about them.

"We are honoring a man of greatness today, but also a humble man who has never sought acclaim and distinction. He has been happy and content to go about his exploring, teaching, and writing without being conspicuous, modestly disclaiming praise, quietly asserting that in everything he has done he has just been living and enjoying his way of life, but inwardly delighted if indeed he has helped others."

It was a moving occasion for Dr. Jaeger. The veteran naturalist spoke with deep feeling of his years of close association with young people — his students — as together they discovered the truths and values to be found in living nature; of his hope for and faith in the lasting worth of such a sanctuary as this; and of his gratitude to all who took part in its realization.

A handsome but appropriately simple four-by-six-foot stained wood plaque was displayed, its carved white-filled letters bearing the legend:

EDMUND C. JAEGER NATURE SANCTUARY

OWNED BY

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, INC.

TO COMMEMORATE THE DISCOVERY OF

THE HIBERNATING POORWILL

BY DR. EDMUND C. JAEGER OF

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA-1946

AND FOR THE PRESERVATION,

OBSERVATION, AND ENJOYMENT

OF NATURE

This plaque will be permanently mounted on posts beneath a towering Rock formation, with the great hope that it will be respected by all who come here.

What of the little Poorwill, who came here, once, and three times more, to pass its winters in dormancy? Why did it sleep away the season, in such a place? Dr. Jaeger wrote of his asking desert

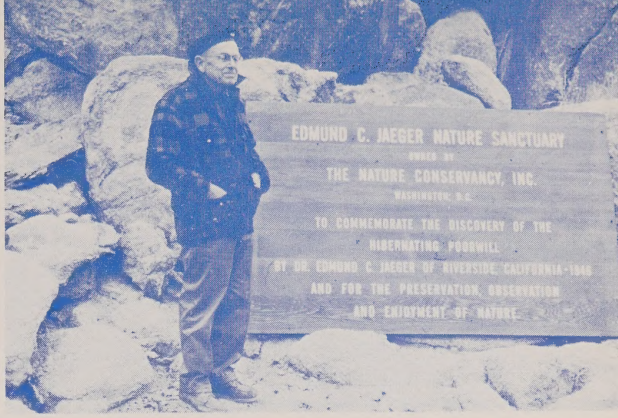

Photo by Don G. Kelley

Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger at the Dedication, 15 Nov. 1964. Desert Center, California.

Indians, in former years, where the Poorwills went in winter — bird men did not know. They answered, "Up in the rocks." But no student of birds had ever found one wintering, until that day in 1946. This desert bird is an insect feeder. In winter, insects become scarce in the desert. Many had conjectured that the Poorwills must then go south, perhaps to the Mexican deserts. But thanks to the chance discovery by one zoology professor and two students, we now know the Poorwill's response to the lack of food for the cold months. And we know that there is hibernation among birds.

How many more Poorwills may be found here in these rocks, in other winters, is of little importance. What matters is that this place has been secured and dedicated to the possibility of other discoveries, perhaps equally or even more important, and to the certainty of inspiration and enjoyment.

Photo by Don G. Kelley

Site where Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger and Milton Montgomery found the Hibernating Poorwill on Dec. 29, 1946. Near Desert Center, California.

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY . . . . is the only national conservation organization whose primary purpose is the preservation—by their actual acquisition—of natural areas having outstanding esthetic or scientific importance.

Representatives, chapters, and local committees help carry on Conservancy activities within local areas. Membership dues of $5.00 per year and other contributions for the general support of the organization are shared with chapters on an apportionment basis. Projects to preserve specific areas are normally financed by local efforts through gifts and donations, with technical advice, loans, and sometimes grants from the national organization.

The Nature Conservancy has preserved or helped preserve such outstanding areas as Tucker Prairie and Holly Ridge (Missouri); Forest of Nisine Marks (California); Tannersville Bog (Pennsylvania); Moss Lake and Mianus River Gorge (New York); Battle Creek Cypress Swamp (Maryland); Mettler's Woods (New Jersey); Walcott Preserve (Connecticut); Caledonia Oaks (Minnesota); and the Volo and Wauconda Bogs (Illinois).

The Nature Conservancy works closely with many scientific and conservation groups. It participates in the activities of such organizations as the Natural Resources Council of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.